Museums and the Ministry of Culture, a three-tier security system has been introduced in the Indian Museum. The Ministry of Culture has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General, National Museum for assessment of security requirement of its museums. The Committee has also assessed the security requirement of Indian Museum, Kolkata, and has made certain recommendations. Ministry of Culture has issued directions to Indian Museum to implement the recommendation of the Committee. The master plan of the Victoria Memorial Hall galleries and stores has included the crucial aspects of security and surveillance and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) authorities, engaged to study an effective security system. In Asiatic Society, the recommendations relating to increase in the number of cameras for close-circuit TV and modifications/renovation work of the main gate were accepted.

Buddhist stupas in Orissa

2. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent excavations in Orissa, ASI has discovered Buddhist stupas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-period to which these stupas belong to and whether such structural plans are similar to ones seen at Sarnath, Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has discovered a large number of Buddhist votive stupas from excavations at Udaygiri, Distt. Jajpur, Orissa, during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. There are three major groups of votive stupas of varying dimensions, made of bricks and stones. These stupas were constructed on squarish, rectangular or circular platforms. The bases of some stupas have circular depressions for keeping terracotta sealings bearing Buddhist incantations. Based on archaeological evidences, these stupas are datable variously to *circa* 1st—12th century AD. Besides, a votive stupa has been discovered at Ratnagiri, District Jajpur, Orissa, during the year 2003-04, datable to *circa* 9th-10th century AD.

These stupas are similar on plan to those found at Sarnath, Varanasi (U.P.), but differ in detail.

World Heritage site

3. SHRI RUDRA NARAYANA PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhubaneswar is proposed to be declared a World Heritage City;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the ASI to the UNESCO for award of such status;

(c) whether the ASI has also recommended other sites for WHS status in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Deterioration of Konark Temple

4. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the structure of Konark Temple and its magnificent celestial chariot and stone sculpture is fast turning into a colossal ruin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 25 per cent of its sculptural embellishment etched on inert stones, have been defaced by erosion and lost forever;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for neglecting maintenance of the temple; and